STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS—Contd.

III. Demand of Junior Doctors' Federation of Delhi Hospitals

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Madam Vice-Chairman, may I make a suggestion that instead of taking up a new Bill, Mr. Narasimha Rao is also here... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Yes, yes he will make a statement. Now, Shri Narasimha Rao will make a statement regarding the demands of Junior Doctors Federation of Delhi Hospital.

[**The Vice-Chairman (Shri M.P. Kaushik)** in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, the Residency Scheme was introduced in the Central Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals in 1974 in replacement of the System of House Surgeons and Registrars. This system has been in force for the past 12 years. From a brief Review of its functioning, one can say that it has not been without problems. The Junior Doctors had been on strike in 1980 and are now on the threshold of another strike.

One feature of the Scheme is that as a result of the difference in the method of selection, there is a consequent hiatus between the emoluments being given to the Resident Doctors recruited under this programme on the one hand and those of the medical graduates possessing the same qualifications who join Government service, on the other. Superintendents of the Hospitals and the Heads of Institutions are The Junior Doctors had been on strike as dissatisfaction among Resident doctors leads to disruption of work in the Hospitals.

Discussions with the heads of Medical Institutions and others well informed in the area of Medical Care show that the time is opportune for reviewing the entire scheme with the objective of ensuring that it functions to the satisfaction of all concerned including the Resident Doctors, the Heads of the Institutions and Governmental authorities. There is need to assure the medical graduates who join the scheme that the remuneration given to them would be on par with which they would be normally entitled to if they enter Government service and also the safeguards and service conditions which should have been otherwise available to them. This would also mean that the recruitment of doctors to this programme should have to be through the normal channels of Government recruitment (UPSC) and based on the principles adopted for similar recruitment. At the same time, there might have to be some measure of flexibility in the scheme to allow the students to acquire postgraduate qualifications and training and also serve in the various specialities with a view to help the Hospitals and colleges discharge their functions effectively and efficiently.

Keeping in view these aspects, the Government proposes to undertake with immediate effect, a Review of the entire Residency Scheme. The Review will cover the methods of recruitment, remuneration, service conditions and the needs of the Hospitals and educational institutions who have to render excellent medical care and facilities and the financial commitment involved in the total package. An exercise of this kind will necessarily require some time and consultation with the various authorities involved including the Resident Doctors' Organisations. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will get the review completed in a reasonable frame of time.

The Junior doctors have, however, demanded that their emoluments should be equated with the regularly selected General Duty medical officers straightaway. This would obviously lead to several new complications which Government would wish to avoid. Government are aware of the need to divise methods to cover the Resident doctors who are already working in the Residency Scheme for whom a reasonable package, in consonance with the basic ap-

proach, would be made available. In view of the facts mentioned above, I appeal to the Resident doctors to withdraw their notice of strike and cooperate in coming to a satisfactory settlement of the issue and saving innocent patients from avoidable inconvenience and suffering.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is obvious that this reconsideration of the residency scheme has been necessitated by the strike of the Junior Doctors. Otherwise, this reconsideration could have been done at any other time. But since it is being done in the wake of the strike call given by the doctors, naturally, it is because of that. However, in this connection, I would like to know what efforts have been male by the Government so far to have a negotiated settlement with the junior doctors and if there is any possibility still of having a negotiated settlement on their present demands.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I would like to make an appeal to hon. Members that I may not be pressed to make any clarifications just now because there is still time. The negotiations came to a halt, say, about 2 o'clock this afternoon and thereafter I had to rush to Parliament to make this statement. But I do hope that in the course of the next few hours, it will still be possible for the resident doctors to see reason because we are flexible. What we are saying is, what cannot be done, cannot be done; but in regard to what can be done within the framework that we have today, we will go to the utmost extent to give satisfaction to them and saisfaction to everybody. But since their attitude as of 2 o'clock was not very conciliatory or they seem to say 'this or nothing", "all or nothing", I had to make this statement because otherwise I would be guilty of not taking Parliament into confidence within the time available to me. So I would say that if necessary, I can come with all the facts, all the figures, all the events at any appropriate time later, but today I would appeal that I may not be pressed for any more clarifications. I have answers to everything but that will not really help in solving the problem. For the next few hours, I would like to be very uncommunicative in the sense that I really do not want to add anything more to what I have said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): I have a sugges ion. You hear the Members today and you reply tomorrow.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have no objection but...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Does it mean that tomorrow you will be in a position to make another statement?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: What I am saying is that if everything is settled, I will come with the happy statement that everything is settled.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Okay.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: If there is anything that needs to be clarified, we can have any other occasion in the next few days to raise the same question. There is nothing to conceal. If you really want to put questions, I am prepared to answer. But I am saying, at least wait for a few hours. I have come here because yesterday was Sunday and day before yesterday was Saturdays. For three or four or five days we have been sitting night and day on this. We have not been sleeping over it. The point is that there is a time-limit. After this, I will not have an occasion to make a statement in Parliament. That is why I have come. So, if you bear with me for a few hours...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, I do not know if they have been able to communicate their pugnacity to you also. The point is, after a few hours, tomorrow, are you going to come to us with a statement that it is settled and on that basis we can have a discussion?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: On the basis of the final outcome, we can have a discussion, or I can take the House into confidence in any appropriate manner under the rules. I have no difficulty on that.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATERJEE: Why make a reference to a few hours in that case?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Because questions are being asked about what was offered, what was asked and all those things. Now this is not the time to go into all those things. I can go into those things if necessary. If it becomes unnecessary in the sense that everything is settled, then well and good. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we do not want to create obstacles in the negotiations because they have reached a crucial stage. Meetings have taken place and negotiations are being held. Still the resident doctors want the same pay as is given to a regular doctor. So there is a difference of opinion between the Government and the agitating doctors. I would request the Minister to kindly see that the proposed indefinite strike is avoided at all costs. Go to any extent to see that it does not take place.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): If the House agrees, my suggestion is that clarifications may be sought tomorrow when the Minister comes next...

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have one difficulty. Tomorrow I am not free. I have got several other conferences which cannot be avoided. Therefore, I would like to promise to the House that I will come within the next two or three days...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Yes, tomorrow or the day after.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am not the one to run away. I will certainly come within the next two or three days once it is settled; otherwise I will come with the facts...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Supposing you have not succeeded, even in that case day after tomorrow...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Tomorrow or the day after, as is convenient for the negotiations. Now we take up the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill....

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I think it will not be taken up today. It is past five now...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): We are suposed to go up to 6.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: But it has not been extended so far...

SHRI M. M. JACOB: At its last meeting the Business Advisory Committee had already decided it and it was read out in the House.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): The Minister may introduce the Bill today and let the debate take place tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): All right. Mr. Minister.

THE INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as honourable Members are aware, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India was the first development institution established in the country in 1948 by an Act of Parliament. The Industrial Finance Corporation of India provides various types of assistance to eligible medium and large-size projects. This assistance could be in the form of rupee and foreign currency loans, underwriting or direct subscription to shares, debentures as also guarantees for deferred payments and foreign loans. The IFCI has also increasingly taken up promotional work so as to